

**All healthcare facilities should follow the infection control guidance in the section  
Basic Infection Control Principles for Preventing the Spread of Pandemic Influenza  
in Healthcare Settings**

**The following guidance is intended to address setting-specific infection control issues that should also be considered.**

**Nursing homes and other residential facilities**

Residents of nursing homes and other residential facilities will be at particular risk for transmission of pandemic influenza and disease complications. Pandemic influenza can be introduced through facility personnel and visitors; once a pandemic influenza virus enters such facilities, controlling its spread is problematic. Therefore, as soon as pandemic influenza has been detected in the region, nursing homes and other residential facilities should implement aggressive measures to prevent introduction of the virus.

**a) Prevention or delay of pandemic influenza virus entry into the facility**

- Control of visitors
  - Post visual alerts (in appropriate languages) at the entrance to the facility restricting entry by persons who have been exposed to or have symptoms of pandemic influenza.
  - Enforce visitor restrictions by assigning personnel to verbally and visually screen visitors for respiratory symptoms at points of entry to the facility.
  - Provide a telephone number where persons can call for information on measures used to prevent the introduction of pandemic influenza.
- Control of personnel
  - Implement a system to screen all personnel for influenza-like symptoms before they come on duty. Symptomatic personnel should be sent home until they are physically able to return to duty.

**b) Monitoring patients for pandemic influenza and instituting appropriate control measures**

Despite aggressive efforts to prevent the introduction of pandemic influenza virus, persons in the early stages of pandemic influenza could introduce it to the facility. Residents returning from a hospital stay, outpatient visit, or family visit could also introduce the virus. Early detection of the presence of pandemic influenza in a facility is critical for ensuring timely implementation of infection control measures.

- Early in the progress of a pandemic in the region, increase resident surveillance for influenza-like symptoms. Notify state or local health department officials if a case(s) is suspected.
- If symptoms of pandemic influenza are apparent implement droplet precautions for the resident and roommates, pending confirmation of pandemic influenza virus infection. Patients and roommates should not be separated or moved out of their rooms unless medically necessary. Once a patient has been diagnosed with pandemic influenza, roommates should be treated as exposed cohorts.
- Cohort residents and staff *on units with known or suspected cases of pandemic influenza*.
- Limit movement within the facility (e.g., temporarily close the dining room and serve meals on nursing units, cancel social and recreational activities).